Rome Jan 13. 1864

My dear Tom

Pardon pardon Must I should not have been able before to answer so dear a brother in his two letters which interested me so much & which I only wrote a few words about – You were so anxious what my "brick & mortar" meant & I have pleasure in explaining as you will be equally pleased –

A dear old f.d George Moore Esmeade has brought a Roman Villa Nro me & will pay me a visit every winter for a month or so meanwhile he leaves it to my care to do what I like with it & I propose to turn it to every possible advantage – as it is close to the gate I can do this easily & make an agreeable pastime & labour – thus I have longed all my life for a garden! & to think that now I do I could have had heaps & such profit for I purpose to have cows & pigs & fowls

indeed a nice little farm — How you would pity me
& how furious you'd be if you knew the spite and
malice my position calls up, & what I have to
suffer — Now it has encreased with my new honours
of Cardinal Antonelli & Lord Ruspoli having made
me consul for all Italy — but I think I shall be
a match for my enemies by my affording to take no
notice of their doings — no doubt my position is a
very desirous one & desired by thousands, but
then I have made it so & merit the reward
They have gone so far as to attack a Venetian
Lady at whose house I thought of residing — Lately
I have been sadly at my wits end but now I am
tranquil — My time is greatly filled up but I
like the active life if it would give me time
to write to any f.ds — This is a sad shabby letter
to send you, but I'll make up for it in my next
My love to all your charming circle not forgetting
the old arm chair Yours in haste

but feel sure it will be respectable - It will give me much consolation to help you to be comfortable & I never have the certainty of being able to do so & one of these days I shall be delighted to receive a letter from you to say so, but that is when you are so — altho my cares are great yet my position is an enviable one & I am blessed with more health strength spirits & activity than ever I was in my life I am always ready to take the bull by the horns (a Popes bull !!)

Eleanor is very well & much pleased she finds no end of friends & I do not doubt that we shall get on very well - already she can speak Italian !

Your loving brother Joe